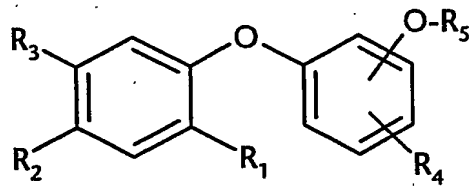
What is claimed is:

1. Use of at least one arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula

(I) 

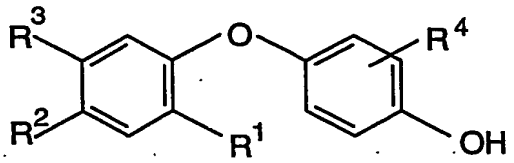
wherein

R_1, R_2 and R_3 independently from each other are hydrogen; hydroxy; C_1-C_{20}alkyl; hydroxy-substituted C_1C_{20}alkyl; C_5-C_7cycloalkyl; C_1-C_{20}alkoxy; C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl; phenyl; or phenyl-C_1-C_3alkyl;

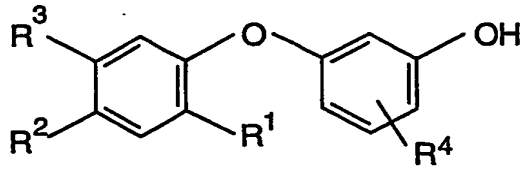
R_4 hydrogen, C_1-C_{20}alkyl; hydroxy-substitute C_1-C_{20}alkyl; C_5-C_7cycloalkyl; hydroxy; formyl; acetonyl; allyl; carboxy; carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl; carboxyallyl; C_2-C_{20}alkenyl; C_1-C_6-alkyl-carbonyl; C_1-C_3alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl; phenyl; or phenyl-C_1-C_3alkyl; and

R_5 is hydrogen; C_1-C_{20}alkoxy; or C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (

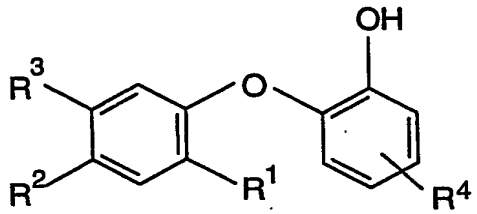
(II) 

wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_{20}alkoxy, phenyl or phenyl-C_1-C_3alkyl group, R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl or C_1-C_{20}alkoxy group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl or carboxyallyl group, hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula

(III) 

wherein R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl or C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl group, R_1 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl group or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3alkyl-carbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl or carboxyallyl group,
and hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula

(IV)



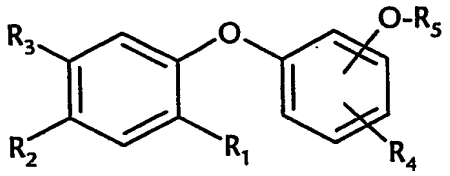
wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or C_1-C_{20}alkyl group, R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl or carboxyallyl group and R_2 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or C_1-C_{20}alkyl group, in a cosmetic deodorant or antiperspirant composition for reducing body odour caused by the hydrolytic decomposition of steroid esters.

3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (I) are selected from compounds wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or C_1-C_{20}alkoxy group, R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl or C_1-C_{20}alkoxy group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, allyl, carboxymethyl or carboxyallyl group.

4. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (II) are selected from compounds wherein R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl or C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl group, R_1 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl group or a C_1-C_{20}-alkyl group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, allyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyallyl or C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl group.

5. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (III) are selected from compounds wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or C_1-C_{20}alkyl group, R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, allyl, carboxymethyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or carboxyallyl group and R_2 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or C_1-C_{20}alkyl group.

6. A method of reducing body odour by means of the inhibition of arylsulfatase on the skin, wherein a cosmetic deodorant or antiperspirant composition comprising at least one arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula

(I) 

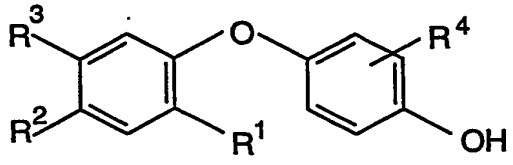
wherein

R_1, R_2 and R_3 independently from each other are hydrogen; hydroxy; C_1-C_{20}alkyl; hydroxy-substituted C_1C_{20}alkyl; C_5-C_7cycloalkyl; C_1-C_{20}alkoxy; C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl; phenyl; or phenyl-C_1-C_3alkyl;

R_4 hydrogen, C_1-C_{20}alkyl; hydroxy-substitute C_1-C_{20}alkyl; C_5-C_7cycloalkyl; hydroxy; formyl; acetonyl; allyl; carboxy; carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl; carboxyallyl; C_2-C_{20}alkenyl; C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl; C_1-C_3alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl; phenyl; or phenyl-C_1-C_3alkyl; and

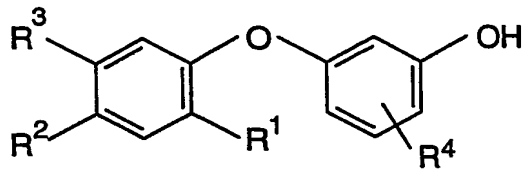
R_5 is hydrogen; C_1-C_{20}alkoxy; or C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (II)

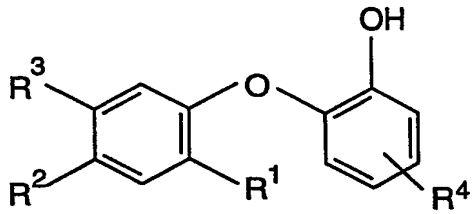


wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_{20}alkoxy, phenyl or phenyl-C_1-C_3alkyl group, R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl or C_1-C_{20}alkoxy group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl,

C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl or carboxyallyl group,
hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula

(III) 

wherein R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl or C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl group, R_1 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl group or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl or carboxyallyl group,
and hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula

(IV) 

wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or C_1-C_{20}alkyl group, R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_{20}alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3-alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkyl or carboxyallyl group and R_2 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl or C_1-C_{20}alkyl group,
is applied to the skin, especially to the skin of the armpits.

8. A method of reducing body odour according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is used gender-specifically in respect of the amount and/or nature thereof.

9. Method of reducing body odour according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is used for reducing body odour in men.